

IN COURTHOUSE PARK

— Hanford, California

Weathered face

crinkled smile

from his end of the bench

he volunteered

Sit down ma'am

I'm a way too old to flirt

Held out red cracked hands

Look at'em

milked a million vacas in my

eighty-five years

Local history?

I don't know much about it

but I heard John Philip Sousa

lead a band right over

there

played some of his own marches

Trees of heaven?

a few left around here somewhere

half joked

I guess not many folks looking

for heaven these days